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Widmer and Daitch Go 2 for 2

CANMORE, ALTA. (January 21, 2007)- The field got stronger with many of Canada's World Cup skiers taking part in Sunday's Haywood NorAm races at the Canmore Nordic Centre, but the results were the same. Canadians Phil Widmer and Sarah Daitch both won back-to-back gold medals, and hold the leaders bibs, in the men's and women's Madshus Sprint Series.

Widmer, of Banff, Alta., had fast skis all day again on Sunday. The 23-year-old sprinting specialist led the top-30 into the head-to-head heats after posting the fastest qualification time at 2:16.54. The heats consist of the top-30 athletes from the qualification round, with five athletes racing head-to-head. The top-two athletes in each of the six heats move on to the next round. The top two third-place finishers from the quarter-final heats also move into the semifinals based on their qualification times.

Joining Widmer on the silver medal step of the podium for the second straight day was Stefan Kuhn, of Canmore, Alta. Devon Kershaw, of Sudbury, Ont., who has been enjoying a breakthrough season on the World Cup circuit was third.

Meanwhile, Sarah Daitch, of Fort Smith, N.W.T., led the Canadian women around Canmore's nordic highways. Daitch held off a hard-charging Shayla Swanson, of Calgary, who settled for the silver medal, while Montreal's Dasha Gaiazova was third.

The Madshus Sprint Series is a development race series in Canada which consists of seven races throughout the season, with the final race staged at the 2007 Canadian Championships.

Complete results are available at www.zone4.ca.

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